



NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG



www.ci.lincoln.ne.us

Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission 440 S. 8th St., Ste. 100 Lincoln NE 68508-2294 402/441-7716 FAX 402/441-6824

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

February 8, 2005
Bonnie Coffey, 441-8695
Diane Mullins, 441-7717
*Winners' pictures available upon request

WOMEN'S COMMISSION HONORS AWARD RECIPIENTS

"Weaving Women's Voices" pays tribute to annual award winners in saluting International Women's Day

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, along with Friends of the Commission, will host an awards luncheon in recognition of International Women's Day to celebrate its 29th anniversary, "***Weaving Women's Voices***." Scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2005, the event will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street., Lincoln, NE. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the program starts promptly at 11:30 a.m.

Mayor Coleen J. Seng will present an International Women's Day proclamation and the keynote speaker is Rose Kemp, Region VII Administrator with the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau in Kansas City, MO.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission is pleased to announce the following award recipients:

- The ***Alice Paul Award*** is presented to a woman whose life's work reflects her dedication to the struggle for women's equality. **Ms. Leola Bullock**, retired clerical assistant for the Great Plains National Instructional Television, has served as a role model and strong leader for women over the past five decades. Her courage, perseverance, energy and determination blazed a trail of equality and justice for all women living and working in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Her goals were simple: To strive for an inclusive society where color and gender didn't lower the quality of life for Nebraskans. Bullock began her civil rights advocacy as a young woman in 1955 when she volunteered at the YWCA as vice president of the World Fellowship Committee and the American Red Cross. She was instrumental as a charter member of the National Council of Negro Women and worked diligently on women's issues. Since then, she has actively involved herself in nearly two dozen boards, commissions and task forces aimed at changing society's view on racism and gender equality. In the 50's, she helped desegregate lunch counters in local eating establishments. During the 60's, she advocated the hiring of black people in retail sales. In the 70's, she worked on systemic changes for promoting equality. She provided the initiative for beginning the yearly celebration of "Juneteenth," founded by the Concerned Citizens for Truth in Education. That effort paved the way for Lincoln Public School's Multi-Cultural Education Department, and assisted in creating the Association of Black Citizens to protest unfair police action, which led to the creation of the Police Review Board. On a personal note, she is a kind and nurturing caregiver for those in need, helping the homeless, the elderly, and the sick.
..... (Contact info, call her home, 464-2476, no email access).
- The ***Erasmus Correll Award*** is presented to a man who has exhibited outstanding commitment through his individual leadership and community involvement to the issues that affect women, who has

encouraged and supported women in their pursuit of equal status, and who has enhanced women's quality of life. **Senator David Landis** has served in the Nebraska Unicameral for nearly three decades. He has researched, advocated and promoted the advancement of women on and off the legislative floor. Sen. Landis consistently demonstrates his commitment to women's issues [and the advancement for equality under the law and societal norms.] He worked to create uniformity in Nebraska's child support, child custody and domestic violence laws. As a result, Nebraska now recognizes and enforces court orders from other states and vice-versa. He has a special concern for working parents, especially the two-thirds of Nebraskan women employed in the work force. Dave started working on legislation in 1988 that allows tax credits to businesses that provide child care to their employees. The bill successfully passed three years ago. In 1993, Dave was successful in amending the Fair Employment Practice Act to recognize sexual harassment as an unfair employment practice. He is also working on bills to prevent discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation. During the late 1970's, Senator Landis worked with the banking community to eliminate the practice known as "redlining," a method used to segregate minorities unfairly through high interest rates, loan denials or arbitrary terms. Dave was instrumental in the creation of Mediation Centers located throughout the state, which help resolve the grievances of individuals who cannot afford the costs of the legal system. Landis is known as a champion of those who do not feel that they have a voice in government. He exercises an open-door policy before making a decision and believes government exists to balance competing interests. His work is inclusive of women and children, and the advancement of equal rights, and he has supported many women in their bids for elected office.

(Sen. Landis requests media personnel contact his aide, Laurel Marsh, 471-2720, directly to schedule interviews during this busy legislative season)

- The ***Woman Artist - Written Word*** is presented to a local woman artist who excels in her work as deemed by peers and colleagues, and to support the arts in the community. **Dr. Joy Ritchie** was selected for her remarkable contributions to the art of combining feminism and writing. She is employed with the University of Nebraska as an English professor, teaching, writing and rhetoric and director of Women's Studies. Through her research and writing, Ritchie has helped establish the field of women's rhetoric. Before she and other women scholars asked the question: "Where are the Women in the History of Rhetoric?" Scholars took for granted that the traditional "canon" of rhetoric was the last word and that women's ways of writing and speaking were not important, were not relevant to the field, were not, in short, the "real stuff." Through her articles in scholarly journals and especially through her books, Ritchie has made a coherent "herstory" of women's speeches, essays, manifestoes, petitions, letters, and public arguments available to all. Ritchie's book, *Available Means*, is being used in college classrooms across the country for study on the voice of women across a thousand years. Reflected in her book is a new understanding of resistance and power. It illuminates the ways in which women used the "available means" at hand to express themselves persuasively. As director of the Women's Studies program, she has brought more women of color faculty into the program, increased the multicultural programming, earned a seed grant to establish a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Studies minor on campus, and made significant outreach gains to the community at large. Within the last ten years, Ritchie has written 31 "Selected Refereed and Invitation" papers, two books, and served on more than two dozen boards, commissions and task forces aimed at gender equity and women in education.

..... *(Contact Dr. Ritchie at UNL, 472-1858, jritchie@unl.edu)*

For more information or to make reservations, contact the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, 441-7717. These recipients will be honored for their professional and/or personal efforts in promoting opportunities for women, improving the quality of life and making an impact on women's issues in the community.

